

HANDOUTS

- Meeting Agenda
- Meeting Minutes 07/16/13
- Summary of Citizen-Initiated Complaint Docket
- Officer Scheduling Streamline Initiative
- Jail Population Quarterly Report- 4Q 2013

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 8:45am

Welcome

Tom Eberly opened the meeting and welcomed the Honorable Judge Reagan Miller, Chief District Court Judge. Members approved the July minutes by consensus.

Announcements

Jail Quarterly Report

Tom Eberly presented the Jail Population Quarterly Report. The report will be regularly distributed at CJAG to inform members of the composition and trends in the jail's inmate population.

Magistrate Video-Phone Project

Tom Eberly informed members the AOC is moving forward with the video-phone project and will contact local law enforcement agencies next month to determine if they wish to participate in the program. The question was raised as to whether a T1 communication line was required. Eberly will follow up with the AOC to get an answer.

Citizen-Initiated Complaint Docket Analysis

Mauro Messina presented the findings of the recently completed Citizen-Initiated Complaint Docket Analysis. The report examines outcomes in the Citizen-Initiated Complaint Court, which was established in response to an earlier study that revealed that over 80 percent of such cases are ultimately dismissed. An important and new element of the court is the introduction of mediation services. Parties to the complaint are offered the opportunity to reach a mutually satisfying resolution through professional mediation. If the court agrees with the solution, the case can be dismissed. Expectations for the court include decreased time to final disposition, increased efficiency in case handling, and fostering long-term solutions to interpersonal conflict.

Among the findings: time to final disposition is unchanged; the dismissal rate remains high; mediation is not offered in the large majority of cases; overall, when mediation occurs, it is successful. Three points for discussion were offered: 1) More attention to the decision process by which complaints are introduced to the system is needed. Where appropriate, mediated dispute resolution should be emphasized as an alternative to criminal justice involvement; 2) Once in the system, most cases must be resolved at the first setting to have a meaningful impact on the time to disposition; and 3) Given the high rate of continuances for missing witnesses, more attention might be directed to the process which witnesses are called to court.

Presenting the District Attorney's response to the findings, Bruce Lillie informed members that officials serving in the court feel the new court is working well and that efficiency gains have been realized by removing these type cases from the general trial courts. Lillie emphasized these cases are often the result of long standing disputes between persons and that mediation offers an opportunity to resolve the underlying conflicts.

The body then discussed the findings and potential strategies that might limit the introduction of unsuitable cases to the criminal justice system and improve efficiency in general. Among the suggestions: establishing a "cool down" period before a warrant or summons would be issued; limiting the public service window hours; directing citizens to alternative dispute resolution; and issuing only summonses for these type cases. Judge Miller stated he would draft a policy emphasizing the use of summonses rather than warrants for citizen-initiated complaints. None of the strategies considered would apply to cases involving domestic violence.

Law Enforcement Workgroup

Gary Kempker informed members that the JRI workgroup formed to explore strategies for managing low-level offenses held their first meeting on August 19. Participants reviewed the charter, identified additional criminal justice stakeholders to include in future meetings, and discussed various tools and strategies that might be incorporated in a low-level offense policy. Kempker noted the goal of the group is not to empty the jail or take a more lenient response to crime than citizens want, but to improve the criminal justice response and to protect public safety. CIT was removed from the group's purview; responsibility for this element has been assumed by another JRI workgroup. A full-day work session is scheduled for September 23. Recommendations will be brought back to CJAG for feedback and approval. Upon CJAG's approval, the workgroup will then form the implementation plans.

Officer Scheduling Streamline Initiative

Bruce Lillie presented members an overview of the Officer Scheduling Streamline Initiative, a solution for effectively managing officer court date scheduling. One element of the initiative is a District Attorney Liaison, who will serve as a communication hub for non-CMPD officers to check in and out of court, manage absentee requests, and fax district court subpoenas for upcoming trial dates. Another aspect of the initiative is a Courtroom 4150 pilot, which will shift the large majority of officers from a twice-a-month court schedule to once-per-month. High case volume officers will continue to be scheduled twice-per-month. Anticipated benefits include officers having more time on the street, salary and fuel cost savings to law enforcement from reduced court appearances, minimizing missed court dates due to officer training or vacation, and more efficient use of officer court time by increasing the number of cases per court date.

Open Discussion

Members did not raise any topics for open discussion.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 9:31am.

